

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02703 310632Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 NEA-10 /089 W
-----038967 010152Z /14

R 310605Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 313
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 2703

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, TU
SUBJ: ARMENIANS CLAIM BOMBINGS IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL

REF: A) ANKARA 4242; B) ISTANBUL 0109

1. MAJOR TURKISH PAPERS AUGUST 28 CARRY REPORT FROM BEIRUT THAT GROUP CALLING ITSELF "ARMENIAN LIBERATION ARMY" ISSUED STATEMENT CLAIMING IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL BOMBINGS IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL. ACCORDING TO THE RELEASE, TARGETS IN ANKARA ON AUGUST 23 AND ISTANBUL ON AUGUST 25 WERE PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BUT GROUP CLAIMS TO HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT BYSTANDERS WERE NOT INJURED. ARTICLE STATES THAT SERIES OF BOMBINGS INCLUDED TWO IN ANKARA AND SEVEN IN ISTANBUL, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ARE COURT HOUSE, A POST OFFICE AND GALATA BRIDGE. ACCORDING TO PRESS, TWO BOMBS DID EXPLODE IN ANKARA AUGUST 23 ONE AT A COURT BUILDING; THE OTHER AT SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. IN LATTER INCIDENT, NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT POLICE RECEIVED PRIOR WARNING. WE KNOW OF THREE SMALL EXPLOSIONS AT PUBLIC PLACES IN ISTANBUL ON AUGUST 25. AMONG THEM WAS BOMB PLACED NEAR PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON CROWDED GALATA BRIDGE DURING BUSIEST PART OF DAY. FORTUNATELY,
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ONLY DETONATOR EXPLODED. NO ONE WAS INJURED IN ANY OF THESE BOMBINGS, AND DAMAGE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MINOR IN ALL CASES.

2. COMMENT: OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS, ARMENIAN GROUPS ABROAD HAVE CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR LONG SERIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST TURKISH OFFICIALS AND INSTALLA-

TIONS.MOST RECENT WAS ASSASSINATION IN MADRID OF TURKISH
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN'S WIFE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW TWO MONTHS
AGO (REF A). DURING PAST YEAR OR SO THERE HAVE ALSO
BEEN BOMBINGS AND BOMBING ATTEMPTS BY SUPPOSED ARMENIAN
GROUPS INSIDE TURKEY. PRIOR TO THIS WEEK'S INCIDENTS
LAST OF THESE WAS ON JANUARY 11 WHEN BOMB, WHICH DID NOT
EXPLODE, WAS PLACED IN BUS STATION AT NEARBY IZMIT (REF B).
NEITHER ASSASINATIONS IN MADRID NOR IZMIT ATTEMPTED
BOMBING PROVOKED RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST ISTANBUL ARMENIAN
COMMUNITY, AS HAD HAPPENED AFTER SUCH INCIDENTS IN PAST.
AFTER MADRID ASSASINATIONS, GOT PROVIDED EXTRA SECURITY
FOR ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE AND COMMUNITY AGAINST JUST SUCH A
POSSIBILITY.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISTANB02703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0999
Format: TEL
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978084/aaaaadgq.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0106dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 4242, 78 ISTANBUL 109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1669306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMENIANS CLAIM BOMBINGS IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL
TAGS: PINS, TU, ARMENIAN LIBERATION ARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0106dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014